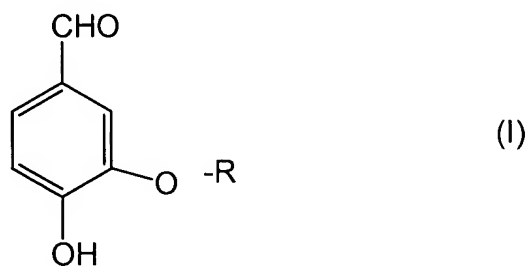


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for sterilizing a ~~protein-containing~~ biological composition containing protein, ~~said method comprising the step of~~ subjecting said composition to a virucidally effective amount of artificial irradiation in the presence of a substance of the general formula (I)



wherein R is [[=]]H, CH₃, or C₂H₅.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one enveloped double-stranded DNA-virus and at least one non-enveloped single-stranded DNA-virus is inactivated by at least 4 Log.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1-~~or~~2, wherein the irradiation is UV, IR, gamma-irradiation, x-ray or visible light.

4. (currently amended) The method of ~~any of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 3, wherein R is CH₃ in formula (I) R=CH₃ (vanillin).

5. (currently amended) The method of ~~any of claim[[s]] 1 to 4~~, wherein the irradiation is UVA, UVB or UVC.

6. (currently amended) The method of ~~any of claim[[s]] 4 to 5~~, wherein the irradiation is UVC at a wavelength of 240 to 290 nm.

7. (currently amended) The method of ~~any of claim[[s]] 4 to 6~~, wherein the irradiation is UVC at a wavelength of 254 nm.

8. (currently amended) The method of ~~any of claim[[s]] 1 to 7~~, wherein said ~~protein-containing~~ biological composition containing protein contains at least one purified plasma protein[[s]].

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said plasma protein is a coagulation factor.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said coagulation factor is at least one ~~selected from the group consisting of factor[[s]] V, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, and or XIII and or~~ fibrinogen.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the coagulation factor is factor VIII.

12. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said plasma protein retains at least 85% of its biological activity after treatment with irradiation.

13. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said plasma protein retains at least 95% of its biological activity after treatment with irradiation.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein ~~not more than~~ up to 5 % of aggregates are formed during irradiation.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein either before, after or at the same time as said protein containing biological composition is subjected to said irradiation and said compound of general formula (I), the composition is subjected to at least one different virucidal method.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the at least one different virucidal method is chosen from ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ heat treatment, pH manipulation, solvent treatment, ~~or detergent or and detergent treatment,~~ and or gamma-irradiation treatment.

17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the substance of the general formula (I) is employed in a concentration of 0.1 to 25 mmol/l.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the substance of the general formula (I) is employed in a concentration of 0.5 to 5 mmol/l.

19. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein factor VIII is associated with von Willebrand factor.

20. (currently amended) ~~The A method of using a substance of general formula (I) in an virus-inactivation process, comprising combining a substance of general formula (I) with a biological composition containing protein and inactivating at least one virus by 4 Log.~~

21. (original) A pharmaceutical composition for the use with humans or animals, containing at least one ingredient, sterilized by the method according to claim 1.

22. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical product for use with humans or animals, ~~for the production of which~~ produced by the method of claim 1 ~~has been used.~~